

PIKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**School Nutrition Program
PO Box 386 115 W. Jackson Street
Zebulon, Georgia 30295
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**William P. McKibben
Superintendent**

**Dr. Bonnie Byrd
Nutrition Director**

April 26, 2000

FD2000 Project Coordinator
Food Distribution Division - FNS
3101 Park Center Drive
Ford Avenue Building - Room 601
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

Dear Project Coordinator:

I would like to submit my comments on the proposed FD2000 program.

I am not sure that commercial packaging will make vendors more responsible for product liability and food safety concerns. Weighting could be a problem. This could create more paperwork and reporting and could even limit competition by excluding small vendors. We have small vendors in our area but we are pleased with their products.

I strongly disagree on allowing vendors to use commercial labels. USDA products are well accepted at our schools. We rarely have any problems with USDA products. We regard them as high quality, first-grade items. Using commercial labels would be very confusing in our bookkeeping and accountability.

I strongly disagree to expand full substitutability of commodity products. We do not want to use non-domestic purchases because of product safety. This substitution could leave a much larger supply of schools' foods subject to recalls, holds and alerts.

We are a small school district. Our managers will begin computer training within the year. Computer connectivity to the school district level could cause lots of problems at the present time.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Dr. Bonnie Byrd, SNP Director
Pike County